

2030. Minimum Standards--Fixed Veterinary Premises

All fixed premises where veterinary medicine and its various branches are being practiced, and all instruments, apparatus and apparel used in connection with those practices, shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times and shall conform to or possess the following minimum standards:

- (a) Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose.
- (b) A reception room and office, or a combination of the two.
- (c) An examination room separate from other areas of the facility and of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client.
- (d) If animals are housed or retained for treatment, the following shall be provided:
 - (1) Compartments for animals which are maintained in a comfortable and sanitary manner.
 - (2) Effective separation of known or suspected contagious animals.
 - (3) If there are to be no personnel on the premises during any time an animal is left at the veterinary facility, prior written notice of this fact shall be given to the client. For purposes of this paragraph, prior written notice may be accompanied by posting a sign in a place and manner conspicuous to the clients of the premises, stating that there may be times when there is no personnel on the premises.
- (e) When a veterinary premises is closed, a sign shall be posted at the entrance with a telephone number and location where pre-arranged veterinary care is available. An answering machine or service shall be used to notify the public when the veterinary premises will be re-opened and where pre-arranged veterinary care is available. If no after hours emergency care is available, full disclosure shall be provided to the public prior to rendering services.
- (f) The veterinary premises shall meet the following standards:
 - (1) Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes.
 - (2) The facility, its temperature, and ventilation shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients.
 - (3) The disposal of waste material shall comply with all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations.
 - (4) The veterinary premises shall have the capacity to render diagnostic radiological services, either on the premises or through other commercial facilities. Radiological procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Health and Safety Code standards.
 - (5) Clinical pathology and histopathology diagnostic laboratory services shall be available within the veterinary premises or through outside services.
 - (6) All drugs and biologicals shall be maintained, administered, dispensed and prescribed in compliance with state and federal laws.
 - (7) Sanitary methods for the disposal of deceased animals shall be provided and maintained.
 - (8) Veterinary medical equipment used to perform aseptic procedures shall be sterilized and maintained in a sterile condition.
 - (9) Current veterinary reference materials shall be readily available on the premises.
 - (10) Anesthetic equipment in accordance with the procedures performed shall be maintained in proper working condition and available at all times.
 - (11) The veterinary premises shall have equipment to deliver oxygen in emergency situations.
 - (12) Appropriate drugs and equipment shall be readily available to treat an animal emergency.
- (g) A veterinary premises which provides aseptic surgical services shall comply with the following:
 - (1) A room, separate and distinct from all other rooms shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures which require aseptic preparation. Storage in the surgery room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to surgery and surgical procedures. A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable.
 - (A) A veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures because it was registered with the board prior to January 1, 1981, shall obtain compliance with the subdivision on or before January 1, 2004.
 - (B) The board may exempt a veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate aseptic surgery room, where it determines that it would be a hardship for the veterinary premises to comply with the provisions of subsection (g)(1).

In determining whether a hardship exists, the board shall give due consideration to the following factors:

- 1. Zoning limitations.
- 2. Whether the premises constitutes a historical building.
- 3. Whether compliance with this requirement would compel the veterinary practice to relocate to a new location.

(2) The surgery room shall be well-lighted, shall have an operational viewing box for reviewing radiographs and shall have effective emergency lighting.

(3) The floors, table tops, and counter tops of the surgery room shall be of a material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

(4) Surgical instruments and equipment shall be:

(A) Adequate for the type of surgical service provided.

(B) Sterilized by a method acceptable for the type of surgery for which they will be used.

(5) In any sterile procedure, a separate sterile pack shall be used for each animal.

(6) All instruments, packs and equipment that have been sterilized shall have an indicator that reacts to and verifies sterilization.

(7) The following attire shall be required for aseptic surgery:

(A) Each member of the surgical team shall put on an appropriate sanitary cap and sanitary mask which covers his or her hair and mouth, nose and any facial hair, except for eyebrows or eyelashes. All members of the surgical team who will be handling the instruments or touching the surgical site shall wear sterilized surgical gowns with long sleeves and sterilized gloves.

(B) Ancillary personnel in the surgery room shall wear clean clothing and footwear. Sanitary cap and mask shall be required of personnel in the immediate proximity of the sterile field.

(h) When performing clean surgery, the instruments used to perform such surgery shall have been sterilized and the surgeon(s) and ancillary personnel shall wear clean clothing and footwear when appropriate.

For purposes of this section, "clean surgery" shall mean the performance of a surgical operation for the treatment of a condition and under circumstances which, consistent with the standards of good veterinary medicine, do not warrant the use of aseptic surgical procedures.